

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Following the speech President Barack Obama gave before a joint session of Congress, Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) released the following statement.

“President Obama laid out in an honest and forthright manner the many challenges our nation is facing today and his vision on how to combat them. As he stated, here at home we face concerns on affordable health care; we still depended too heavily on foreign sources of energy, and our national debt is growing faster than ever. Despite how insurmountable these issues may seem, I agree with the President and believe that Americans have the ability and desire to overcome these obstacles.

“More specifically, I am very glad the President stated that the borrow-and-spend strategy of the last Administration will come to an end, and applaud him for his pledge to cut the deficit by half in four years. As a fiscal conservative, and Blue Dog Democrat, I strongly believe that we must tighten spending and bring our national deficit down as quickly as possible, as large deficits are a major threat to our national security. As Congress begins to debate the budget over the next few weeks, we will need to take a hard look at both ineffective and wasteful government programs and eliminate them. This will require our government to make difficult choices, but our nation cannot continue to run itself by borrowing at home and from foreign countries.

“I look forward to working with all of my colleagues – Republicans and Democrats – in Congress, and with the President, as we move our country through this difficult time and guide it to brighter days.”